



# ***Pediatric Special Care Protocols: Behavioral Emergencies***

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## ***I. All Provider Levels***

1. Perform a scene survey to assess environmental conditions and mechanism of illness or injury. Ensure scene safety.



- A. If there are any potential weapons on scene or the patient appears violent, contact law enforcement immediately and await their arrival before approaching the patient.

2. Follow general patient care guidelines in section A1.

3. Assess the patient's mental status.

4. Assess the patient, noting any bruises or minor trauma and treat accordingly.



5. If the patient makes verbal threats or appears to be mentally unstable, request law enforcement.

- A. Do not attempt law enforcement functions, retreat from the scene to a safe location and await the arrival of law enforcement.

- B. If the patient is dangerous request law enforcement to accompany the EMS crew to the hospital.

6. With younger children, see if the parents or caregivers are able to calm the child.

- A. If the parents or caregivers appear to agitate the child further, separate the child from the parent or caregiver.

7. If the child appears to be agitated by a particular object, person, or environment, remove the child from the environment if it is safe to do so.

8. Obtain a patient history when possible.

- A. If an overdose is suspected, follow the appropriate protocol.



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### ***I. All Provider Levels (continued)***

9. Assess the last feeding for the child.
  - A. If a high or low glucose level is suspected, follow the appropriate protocol.
10. If child abuse is suspected, follow the appropriate protocol.
11. Call for ALS support if a medical cause for the altered mental status is assessed.
  - A. Initiate care and do not delay transport waiting for an ALS unit.
12. Document the emergency call, including the following information:
  - A. Time of arrival
  - B. Initial assessment findings and treatments given
  - C. History obtained (note who provided the information)
  - D. Time law enforcement personnel arrived on scene (if applicable)
  - E. Reason law enforcement was called on scene (if applicable)



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### ***II. Transport Decision***

1. If the child becomes violent during transport, restrain the child and contact law enforcement for additional help (see protocol N16).
2. Initiate transport to the nearest appropriate facility as soon as possible.
3. Reassess at least every 3-5 minutes, more frequently as necessary and possible.
4. Report all findings and child abuse suspicious to the attending physician at the receiving hospital. Do not give opinions or judgments.



### ***III. The Following Options are Available by Medical Control Only***

1. Contact medical control for additional instructions.



***This protocol was developed and revised by Children's National Medical Center, Center for Prehospital Pediatrics, Division of Emergency Medicine and Trauma Services, Washington, D.C.***

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